

ARNORTH Monthly

Special Edition

October 2010



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HHBn activation adds to

The U.S. Army's Journal for Homeland Defense, Civil Support and

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Region IV DCE team

The U.S. Army's Journal for Homeland Defense, Civil Support and Security Cooperation in North America

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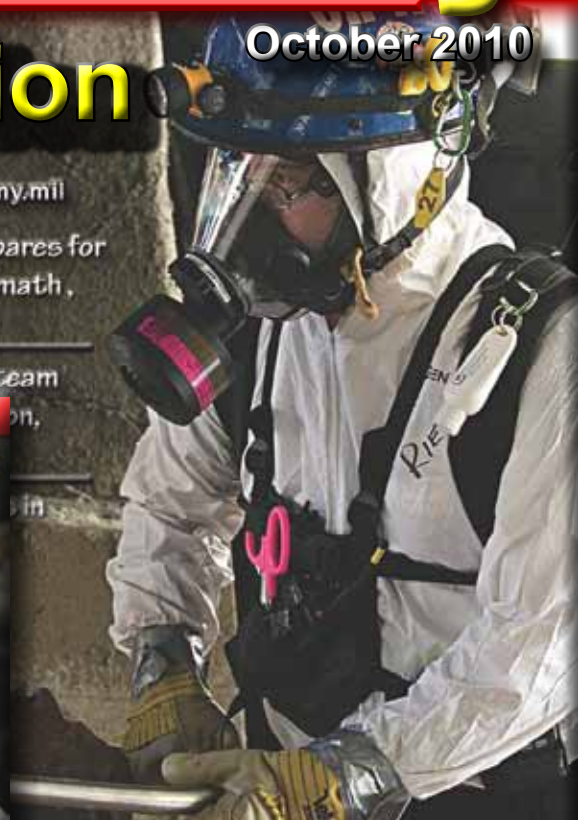
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land Defense, Civil Support and Security Cooperation in North America

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CFC provides Army North, Fort Sam Houston team opportunity to help those in need



By Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III

Commanding General, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston

The Combined Federal Campaign provides members of our Army North community the opportunity to make an investment in the future by supporting a wide variety of human health and welfare charitable agencies – many of which directly assist military members and their Families around the world.

CFC is a service available to us, in our workplace, which provides us the opportunity to make a positive impact at the local, national and international levels through a variety of agencies to support literally millions of people in the global community.

Army North headquarters personnel will be provided an opportunity to contribute through the greater San Antonio campaign. Army North liaison officers, and personnel in the Defense Coordinating Elements and Civil Support Readiness Group-East, are invited to contribute through their local campaigns.

The Army North CFC will run from Oct. 4 – Nov. 19. Our objective through the campaign will not be focused on a prescribed monetary goal; instead, we will ensure 100-percent meaningful, personal contact between trained representatives and all Soldiers and their Civilian partners.

As part of the service provided by CFC, we can make our charitable contributions through payroll deduction. This is the easiest and most efficient way to make a donation. A modest amount withheld each pay period adds up to a very meaningful gift over the course of a year. I ask for your support and urge you to consider making a contribution.

CFC – Supporting a Caring Community.



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Hurricane Rehearsal of Concept

April 2010

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres
U.S. Army North PAO

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – With the threat of a Category 5 hurricane edging toward the eastern coast of the United States, U.S. Army North, along with various military and civilian agencies, coordinate possible supply package deployments, food and water distribution and assistance to local residents

of affected areas.

This notional hurricane is one of the many emergency responses U.S. agencies must be prepared for. The 2010 Joint Force Land Component Command Interagency Hurricane Rehearsal of Concept exercise at Fort Belvoir, Va., April 29 is designed to help military and civilian organizations and agencies that respond to support citizens before, during and after a hurricane and other disasters.

“The time to meet is not at the state after a

Courtesy photo National Hurricane Center

Exercise readies responders

disaster happens,” said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North. “If you look at the forecast for the hurricane season, it is highly possible we will be seeing each other again in the summer. So when we are dealing with each other in the future we can say, ‘Do you remember how we did it at Fort Belvoir?’”

According to a Colorado State University’s study for hurricane forecast, there is likely to be a total of 27 storms, 15 tropical storms, and eight hurricanes – with four at category 3 or higher.

“You can’t have assets at two places at one time,” said Swan. “The most challenging part is that we don’t know where the hurricane is headed. We rely on our interagency partners and our local and state officials to help provide us information on what is going on in order for us to determine where to place assets.”

Throughout the exercise, regions discussed the phases of operations and support elements they are able to activate in order to start recovery and assist procedures. Each state has its own capability, and other states not directly affected by the notional hurricane are still responsible for providing back-up support when needed.

“We have learned throughout the years that an essential player in any disaster response is the private sector,” Swan said, to a local and state delega-

tion attending the exercise. “Representatives from Wal-Mart Corporation and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters are participating in these exercises in order to support local officials during times of need.”

It’s a coordination of all federal, state, local and private sectors that will determine the success of relief and support. Working together will provide the best possible solution.

Relief support is a bottom-up effort, said Swan. Timely decisions need to be made at the local level in order to get support faster.

“I encourage all elected officials local, state and federal to participate in these exercises and drill so they understand what support and assets they have once they request assistance for their area,” Swan added.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provided information on past, current and even future emergency response measures.

Lessons learned from Katrina and past hurricanes help plan for current events such as Haiti relief and the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

“Support for response is more of an art than science. It requires a lot of trust and confidence in our partners, and more importantly will maintain the public’s trust and confidence in their government, local and state agencies, said Swan.”



Maj. Thomas Jones, planning officer, office of the surgeon, U.S. Army North, briefs a notional hurricane projected path in a breakout session April 28 during the 2010 Joint Force Land Component Command Interagency Hurricane Rehearsal of Concept exercise at Fort Belvoir, Va.



Col. Quill Ferguson, G6, U.S. Army North, speaks with participants April 28 about the signal and communications ability of the Emergency Response Vehicle during the 2010 Joint Force Land Component Command Interagency Hurricane Rehearsal of Concept exercise at Fort Belvoir, Va.

April 2010

Garrison commander conducts historic handover in ARNORTH's Quadrangle

**Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
Army North PAO**

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Col. Mary Garr, commander, 502nd Mission Support Group, transferred authority for Army-specific programs and functions on Fort Sam Houston to Frank Blakely, manager of the newly created Army Support Activity, during a ceremony Sept. 30 at U.S. Army North's historic Quadrangle.

On Oct. 1st all real property at Fort Sam Houston transferred to the Air Force, and more than 1,100 Army civilians assigned to the Fort Sam Houston garrison, became Air Force civilians on Oct. 10th and part of the new 502nd Mission Support Group, formerly the U.S. Army Garrison.

"Today we are recognizing only the change in management structure as the garrison Fort Sam Houston splits its functions into two organizations," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North. "While they are two different organizations, both are working together for a common goal —

unrivaled support to all who live and work at Fort Sam Houston." Swan remains the senior Army commander on Fort Sam Houston as the base transitions to Joint Base San Antonio along with the Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases.

The Army Support Activity will take on responsibility for Army missions and training at Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, and for Army-specific programs, such as Army Community Services and the Army Community Covenant.

"Our commitment to support Fort Sam Houston remains unchanged," said Garr. "We will continue to be here. We are still part of the Fort Sam Houston team."

Garr, formerly the Fort Sam Houston garrison commander under the Army's Installation Management Command, became the 502nd MSG commander in April 2010 and will continue to serve in that role. There is still some work to be done, said Blakely.

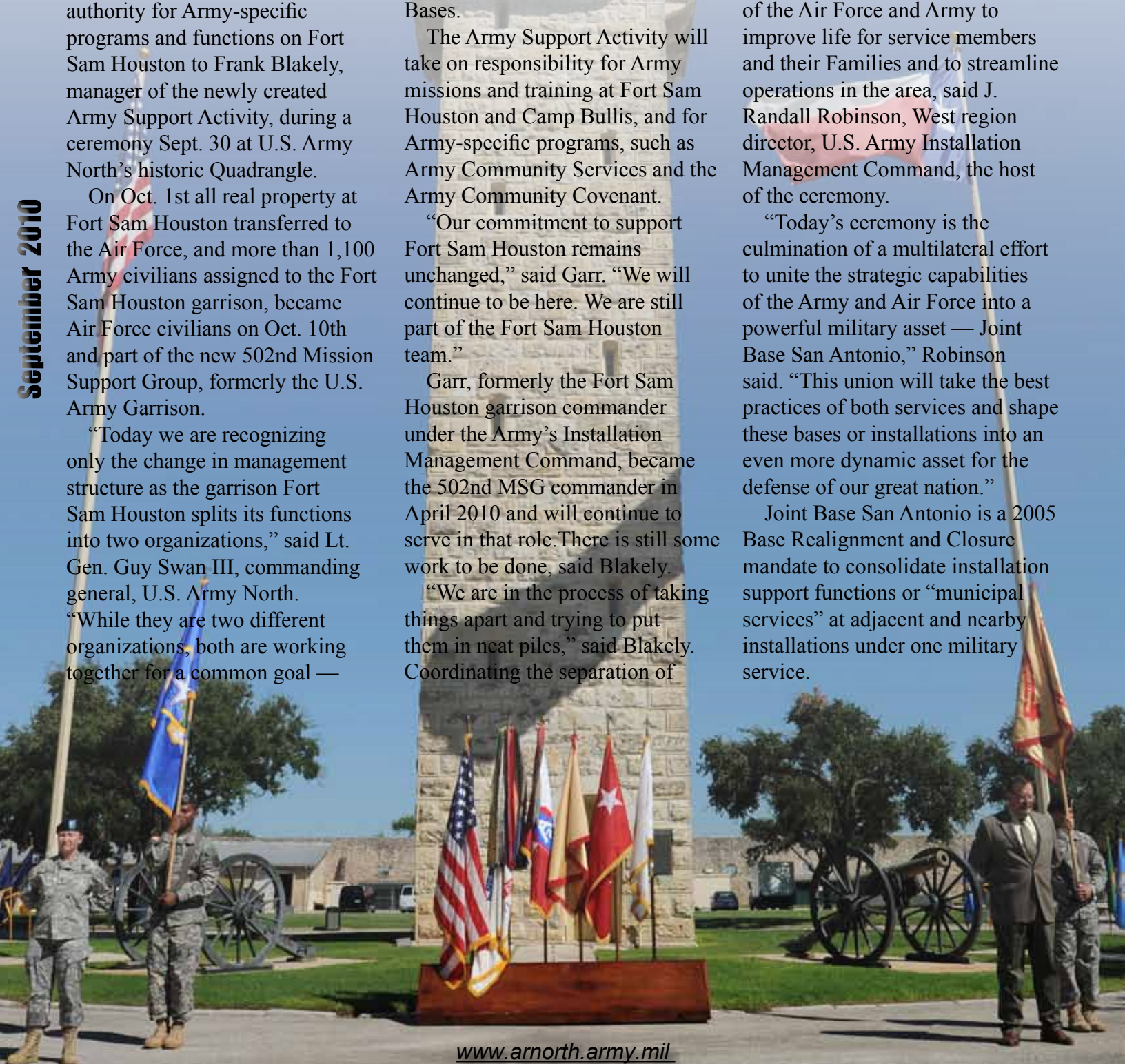
"We are in the process of taking things apart and trying to put them in neat piles," said Blakely. Coordinating the separation of

activities at Fort Sam Houston, one of the largest and oldest military installations in the U.S., is sometimes a challenge, he continued. The relationship between the ASA and the 502nd MSG combines the best practices of the Air Force and Army to improve life for service members and their Families and to streamline operations in the area, said J. Randall Robinson, West region director, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, the host of the ceremony.

"Today's ceremony is the culmination of a multilateral effort to unite the strategic capabilities of the Army and Air Force into a powerful military asset — Joint Base San Antonio," Robinson said. "This union will take the best practices of both services and shape these bases or installations into an even more dynamic asset for the defense of our great nation."

Joint Base San Antonio is a 2005 Base Realignment and Closure mandate to consolidate installation support functions or "municipal services" at adjacent and nearby installations under one military service.

September 2010



CSTA conducts exercise with 773rd CST

**Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. John Gribble,
7th CSC PAO**

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — In a training scenario, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command officials announced they were working with Air Force investigators to review evidence related to an individual who had obtained castor beans with the intent of producing ricin, a poison found naturally in castor beans.

Raids on the quarters of the associates in the terrorist plot exposed detailed instructions for making the poison and directions to the makeshift lab.

This training scenario played out on a cold, cloudy morning, Sept. 16, as the 773rd Civil Support Team, 7th Civil Support Command arrived on scene at the hidden, yet notional, laboratory on Rhine Ordnance Barracks here.

The 773rd CST performed lane training conducted by U.S. Army North's Civil Support Training Activity.

The pre-evaluation training event was held Sept. 16-21 to help prepare them for success in their upcoming certification.

"It's proving to be a great opportunity to really challenge our skill sets so we can refine our response practices," said Sgt. 1st Class Jay Drucas, the operations and training noncommissioned officer for the 773rd CST.

"This is an excellent way to better prepare the unit for the unique challenges these missions present."

This exercise today is intended to help the 773rd CST to become



Spc. Stephen Steinbrugge a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist, 773rd Civil Support Team, inspects a room thought to have been affected with a chemical agent during a training exercise Sept. 16 at Rhine Ordnance Barracks.

certified through rigorous testing, said John D. Nonemaker, the lead observer and controller for U.S. Army North at the lane training.

"U.S. Army North is here specifically to help the 773rd CST streamline their individual and section tasks into a cohesive unit response in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological and/or nuclear incident," said Lt. Col. Timothy Pelfrey, the commander of the 773rd CST.

U.S. Army North, as the Joint Force Land Component Command and the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Northern Command, conducts homeland defense, civil support operations and theater security cooperation activities in order to protect the American people.

When the team arrived at a deserted building next to an old ammunitions site to investigate the suspected laboratory, the team had set up a temporary headquarters

amid a collection of vans, trucks and large tents.

The survey recon team was the first to enter the suspected hazardous environment, suited in their personal protective equipment in preparation to discover what may be waiting behind the laboratory's closed doors.

After donning their suits, the team of three moved slowly toward the lab, wheeling a mobile stretcher loaded with detection devices, a radio and an air tank.

Personal and buddy checks were complete.

With a last visual check, the team entered the building ...

All clear.

The 773rd CST is the only active Army Reserve civil support team stationed outside of the continental U.S. and its territories and is capable of deploying in support of U.S. Army Europe's response to a chemical, biological, radiological and/or nuclear incident.

Civil Support

ARNORTH puts homeland defense unit to CST test in Nevada

By Sgt. Joshua Ford

U.S. Army North PAO

LAS VEGAS — U.S. Army North's Team B, West Division, Civil Support Training Activity, evaluated the Soldiers and Airmen of the Nevada National Guard's 92nd Civil Support Team during a certification exercise Feb. 10 at the National Guard Readiness Center in Las Vegas.

CSTs, such as the 92nd CST, are designed to assess hazards, advise civil authorities, and facilitate military support during emergencies and incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

During the exercise, the 92nd CST was tasked with responding to a training scenario in which two men created a harmful biological agent and attempted to use it to contaminate food and water sources.

"We try to make the exercise as real as possible," said Phillip Barnes, an operations analyst with Team B.

During this exercise, the team used aerosol cans to simulate devices used to spray biological agents.

The evaluation exercise tested the Soldiers and Airmen on 12 collective tasks that include more than 450 sub-tasks. Tasks included setting up a worksite to evaluate any harmful biological or chemical threats found in a mobile laboratory.

"Making sure that we don't grow complacent is the driving force behind this," said Maj. David Sellen, 92nd CST commander.

"We can't afford to be complacent — especially when it



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Sgt. Anthony Rigano (left) and Sgt. Ryan Campbell (right), both survey team members, 92nd Civil Support Team, Nevada National Guard, prepare to enter the simulated contaminated zone while Phillip Barnes (orange vest), operations analyst Team B, West Division, Civil Support Training Activity, U.S. Army North, evaluates the team during the 92nd CST's evaluation exercise Feb. 10 at the National Guard Readiness Center in Las Vegas.

comes to homeland defense."

Rich Murphy, a contracted role player and assistant fire chief in Florida, played the situation commander, representing a unified command under local, state and federal authorities, to provide more realism to the training.

"This allows law enforcement agencies and civil support teams to manage their own assets while key decisions are made collectively by local, state and federal officials,"

said Murphy.

Additionally, a representative from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Las Vegas office played his role as the FBI's representative.

"Every time we go out to one of these exercises, we learn something," said Brett Handy, FBI weapons of mass destruction coordinator.

"It's a great opportunity to increase our understanding of the different agencies."

Evaluation exercises not

only certify the CSTs, they also provide the CSTs, local, state and federal responders a good understanding of what each agency does in the event of a disaster or attack.

"Once you get in and do the networking, you prove that you are competent in your ability and, more importantly, you show you aren't a threat to another agency's environment," said Sellen.

"You show that you're actually there to support and, with



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Left: Sgt. Ryan Campbell, a survey team member with the 92nd Civil Support Team, Nevada National Guard, tests a puddle of water for biological or chemical contamination during the 92nd CST's evaluation exercise Feb. 10 at the National Guard Readiness Center in Las Vegas. Right: Staff Sgt. Roberto Caceres, decontamination noncommissioned officer, 92nd Civil Support Team, Nevada National Guard, prepares a decontamination site during the 92nd CST's evaluation exercise Feb. 10 at the National Guard Readiness Center in Las Vegas.

that, you take away that 'Hollywood' stereotype that the military is coming to take over when it's the exact opposite."

The training and evaluation process proved essential for the 92nd CST when it had to react to a real world situation.

In 2008, Nevada first re-

sponders requested the 92nd CST's assistance when the highly toxic chemical Ricin was discovered in a Las Vegas motel.

The team also assisted in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

"This is an experienced

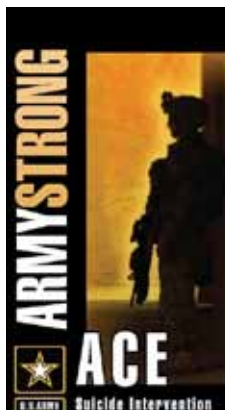
group," said David Brown, Team B operations analyst and observer/controller. "During the exercise, (the 92nd CST) concisely made the effort. That's what we look for.

They met all the tasks to standard. They're a good team and did an outstanding job."

"ARNORTH has a vested interest in making sure we are trained; but at the same time, it is a reality check," said Sellen.

"They aren't going to tell us things that are good and pat us on the back.

They are going to tell us where we stand, good or bad."



Shoulder to Shoulder

I will never quit on life

Contingency Command Posts wind up for 2010 hurricane season

Story by Staff Sgt. Joshua Ford and
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON – In preparation for the 2010 hurricane season, military leaders put the Army's two disaster-response "contingency command posts" through their paces during ramp-up training exercises here throughout March.

CCP 1 kicked off the training with a command post exercise March 10-12 at the Rudder Army Reserve Center in San Antonio, and CCP 2 followed with a CPX of its own March 22-26, also at the center.

The purpose of the train-up exercises were to integrate new staff members, refine the plans and orders process, and refine Army battle command systems processes.

Both CCP 1 and CCP 2 are deployable, mobile military command posts under the auspices of U.S. Army North.

A key mission for both is to coordinate military support to state and local governments, federal departments and agencies and other civilian organizations, during natural or man-made disasters.

The train-up also served as an opportunity for CCP 1 to prepare for its hurricane command post exercise March 29 to April 1 at San Antonio's Rutter Army Reserve Center.

"We came into this exercise with realistic goals and gave ourselves the time we needed," said Lt. Col. Peter Lugar, chief of operations, CCP 1. "Here, we are hitting on the blocking and tackling fundamentals."

As both teams reviewed their "blocking and tackling" fundamentals, they worked through identifying and resolving potential issues with new equipment,

the set-up and tear-down of the command post, as well as conducting software training.

Both CCPs also focused on further developing methods to better anticipate scenarios they may face during the exercise or, more importantly, an actual hurricane disaster.

"This teaches us how to better react in case of a hurricane and gives us some plans of action for things we expect from a hurricane," said Capt. Loron Grantham, CCP 1 operations officer.

"During a hurricane relief mission, you know you are going to need extra aviation, medical and water purification assets. "Here, we work on how to go about getting those assets into the operational area and, from there, how we command and control them."

After a mission assumption brief on April 1, CCP 1 assumed the all-hazards mission to command and control Title 10 forces in the event of a disaster. In an actual hurricane event, the federal response force pre-designated by U.S. Forces Command would be mobilized.

"If Hurricane Moe were real and the state requested Federal assistance, we would mobilize in command of the pre-designated Title 10 force package," explained Grantham.

CCP 2 has no dedicated units under its command, but can deploy at a moment's notice.

"Just like every other training we do, we do it to prepare for the actual event," said Sgt. Maj. Richard Henson, ARNORTH G5 sergeant major.

"The most important thing," added Henson, "is to get our systems, personnel and our common understanding in sync. That way the actual mission will go smoothly."

The Soldiers and Civilians of CCP 1 responded to a fictional category four "Hurricane Moe" that struck the southern Texas coast during their hurricane exercise at the Reserve center from March 29 to April 1.

"We are refining our operations and, hopefully, getting better each step," Lugar said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, U.S. Army North PAO

Maj. Gen. John Basilica Jr., commanding general, Contingency Command Post 1, U.S. Army North, addresses the Soldiers and Civilians of the contingency command post.

Realistic training in Army North exercise proves vital for ARNG units

Story by
Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres,
Army North PAO

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. — In the simulated metropolitan area of Indianapolis, a parking garage collapsed after a nuclear explosion hit the city. The report from local officials was that there were 23 civilians trapped inside the rubble, and their conditions and status were unknown.

This was the scenario for the Soldiers from the 392nd Chemical Company, Arkansas Army National Guard based out of Little Rock, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Urban Search and Rescue unit during Vibrant Response 10.2 field training exercise held at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center July 17. U.S. Army North's Joint Task Force – 51, headquartered in San Antonio, serves as the command and control element for the national emergency response

FTX.

This joint mission required members of both the 392nd Chem. Co. and FEMA to work together to help those who were still trapped in the collapsed garage.

"We are here to ensure that the building has all required safety precautions met so we can begin the extraction of the wounded," said Mike Rosenthal, FEMA urban search and rescue team leader.

"We must be able to provide a safe environment and training element for the units coming in that will work with us."

The extraction tested the abilities of the units to coordinate with one another to remove the rubble; find, extract, and decontaminate the wounded.

Civilian role players provide a critical element of realism that is not necessarily available during local training events.

"Adding civilians increases the realism of the total experience,"

said Maj. Bryan Faye, civilian role player manager, Army North.

"This is the best way to reinforce training – by putting the civilians in place so the Soldier does not have to pretend."

"ARNORTH training assets are critical in the success of the overall training exercise," said Faye.

"You can plan, train and talk about it all day, but once you come out here and actually participate in it, you can see the effects."

A joint effort helps the Soldiers interact with the state and local agencies – and especially with civilian community members.

"This is very realistic training with the role players, and we are learning there are ways to talk with them," said Spc. James Jackson, infantryman, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina Army National Guard, as he was providing perimeter security.

"Some of these people could be our neighbors, brothers, sisters, and we need to treat them with the utmost respect and let them know that we are here to help."

The job of the civilian role players is the most important element in the training, said Faye, because it provides confusion, frustration and on-the-spot thinking that will be needed in the real-world event.

"It's amazing how emotionally invested you become as a part of the civilian on the battlefield characters," said Wilma Morris, North Vernon resident and civilian role player. "If it helps one young Soldier, then it's all worth it."



Members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Task Force, from Dayton, Ohio, search for simulated survivors and victims in the collapsed garage at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center July 17 during the Vibrant Response 10.2 field training exercise. U.S. Army North's Joint Task Force – 51, headquartered in San Antonio, serves as the command and control element for the national emergency response exercise.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Staggs,
MUTC PAO*

July 2010

Texas-based 1st Med. Bde. prepares to assume civil support mission

Story by Gunnery Sgt. Jim Goodwin
JTF-CS PAO

KILLEEN, Texas – Not all U.S. military medical life-saving efforts occur in combat zones.

Just ask the Soldiers of the 1st Medical Brigade, who just spent three days training to assume a mission that could someday require their life-saving expertise en masse right here in the United States: oversight of military medical personnel in response and recovery efforts of a domestic disaster.

The brigade received a series of classes here Sept. 21-23 designed to prepare key leaders and staff for the unit's assumption of its new civil support mission and role as "Task Force Medical," which, if called upon, would provide the medical arm of Joint Task Force – Civil Support. The Fort Monroe, Va.-based Joint Task Force is the military unit designated to provide oversight of Department of Defense Title 10 forces responding to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive – commonly referred to as "CBRNE" – incident.

Once 1st Med. Bde. replaces the current unit assigned as Task Force Medical – the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based 44th Medical Brigade – the unit will be on call to provide command and control of some 600 on-scene U.S. military medical and support personnel in response to a CBRNE incident within the

United States, U.S. territories and possessions.

That is, of course, if federal and state civil authorities require DoD support of recovery efforts. Joint Task Force – Civil Support, and its subordinate supporting units, is part of the "unified Federal response" to a CBRNE event, responding only when State authorities request such help from the Federal government.

So exactly what caliber of soldier does 1st Med. Bde. bring to the civil support mission? A hand-selected, "professional, dedicated" staff of officers, said Army Col. Bruce McVeigh, 1st Med. Bde. commander.

"That's what they bring to the table – that professional piece that is going to help them be successful if and when this ever happens for real, God forbid," said McVeigh.

For McVeigh's staff, the classroom-based training provided familiarization with the DoD civil support mission and Task Force Medical's role in that mission. More specifically, brigade leaders received an overview of the Joint Task Force's operating, reporting and communication procedures – a crucial

Photo courtesy of JTF-CS PAO
CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. – Members of Task Force Medical, Joint Task Force – Civil Support, evacuate a simulated casualty during a field training exercise Mar. 11, 2009, at the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in Edinburgh, Ind. A 13-man mobile training team from the Joint Task Force recently trained the 1st Medical Brigade staff to assume the role as Task Force Medical during a three-day training session, Sept. 23-25 at Fort Hood, Texas.



first step for the brigade to become mission-capable in its new civil support mission, according to Air Force Lt. Col. Hans Lageschulte, training and readiness chief for JTF-CS.

“The idea is to give them what they need so we can all smoothly operate between each other,” said Lageschulte, who spearheaded the Joint Task Force’s 13-man mobile training team. “It’s an opportunity for them to understand how we do business, how we communicate. In this day and age, if you can’t communicate, you’re going to be ineffective.”

The training also included an administrative table-top exercise that required the brigade staff to plan through and brief a fictional mission assessment to Air Force Brig. Gen. Jonathan Treacy, JTF-CS’s commander, and culminated with a review of lessons-learned from the training.

In the coming weeks, the brigade will continue to work with both JTF-CS as well as the 44th Med. Bde. before assuming its new civil support role. The “stair-step” training will culminate this December when the brigade will undergo a “confirmation exercise” designed to test its ability to plan and execute possible real-life civil support missions, said Lageschulte.

Such missions could range from providing ambulatory support, to beefing up local medical forces with equipment and personnel, or even coordinating a military blood drive to support victims.

The confirmation exercise will test 1st Med. Bde.’s ability to respond to a simulated bio-terrorism scenario involving mass casualties, according to Lageschulte.

“The exercise is designed specifically to push and to test the command staff and their incident analysis, and their command and control in a chaotic environment,” said Lageschulte. “They’ll have to find ways to mitigate what they can’t control.”

“The bottom line is that it’s an uncertain environment; it’s not a well-bounded problem,” said Army Maj. Jon Baker, 1st Med. Bde.’s operations officer. “Are we going to hit every widget beforehand? No – but we will have a plan to address it and we will be ready.”

Still, Baker said 1st Med. Bde. “will be prepared to assume the mission,” and that doing so is no different than deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan – the unit will

train, plan for and execute the mission as effectively as possible.

But being prepared to assume the civil support mission equates to 1st Med. Bde.’s ability to respond not just efficiently, but quickly, to each assigned mission in an operationally fast-paced CBRNE consequence management scenario, said Lageschulte.

Currently, JTF-CS must be prepared to respond within 48 hours of a catastrophe. In the coming months, that time will be reduced to 24 hours.

In other words, a faster response time can make the difference between life and death during a CBRNE response, said Lageschulte.

“For every hour that I’m running around trying to figure out why my computers won’t talk to each other, or who in the three (operations) shop I need to talk to about a mission assignment, is one hour that we’re not out saving lives,” he said.

Moreover, the Joint Task Force and its subordinate units may be required to execute a high volume of individual missions during a CBRNE response, requiring a fast-paced operational tempo. During a command post exercise in August, JTF-CS completed more than 100 individual missions in a five-day period.

The 1st Md. Bde. is one of three Army medical brigades that regularly rotate the Task Force Medical civil support mission, which usually shifts brigade-to-brigade every nine to 10 months.

In addition to the 44th and 1st Medical Brigades, the 62nd Medical Brigade, based out of Fort Lewis, Wash., is the third medical brigade that regularly assumes the role.

The civil support mission is assigned to the medical brigades between their regular overseas deployments, usually to Iraq or Afghanistan. The 1st Med. Bde. returned from Iraq in May and is preparing for its next deployment, to Afghanistan, in just over a year.

“We cannot stop operations to just focus on this (civil support) mission. That’s where it becomes hard for us,” said McVeigh.

Still, despite the challenges, McVeigh shared Baker’s assessment that the brigade will be “mission capable” to assume the civil support mission. He also said the civil support mission is just as important as the brigade’s missions abroad.

“Whether I’m planning for (CBRNE consequence management response force) or planning for Afghanistan, I’m still planning and the processes are exactly the same,” he said. “It just makes us stronger.”



JTF-CS answers nation's nightmare

Story by
Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson,
Army North PAO

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — America has eight nightmarish scenarios outlined in a publication known as the National Response Framework.

Eight possible incidents first responders and disaster response units prepare for so that our nation is never caught off-guard and unprepared.

The most unthinkable, known as “key scenario set two,” is a nuclear detonation. It was exactly this scenario that the military’s Joint Task Force – Civil Support, based at Fort Monroe, Va., tackled during a weeklong command post exercise at the Battle Command Training Center here from Aug. 11-19.

Vibrant Response 11.1, an exercise scenario involving a notional 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in

Omaha, Neb., was designed to test the task force’s ability to support civil authorities in a large-scale terrorist incident, said Maj. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy commanding general, Army North.

“This exercise gives our forces the confidence and capability to enter this particular catastrophic event by rehearsing the necessary operations and coordination between local, state and federal agencies,” Wiggins said.

As a notional plume of radiation and debris swept westward across Nebraska, task force members assisted the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other partners in emergency support functions such as search and rescue, medical evacuation, logistics, decontamination, route clearance, and other functions.

More than 400 service members, Department of Defense civilians and contractors from more than 30

units participated in the exercise.

“It has grown considerably, and so has the support we receive from our interagency partners,” said Kevin Kirmse, chief exercise division, Army North.

Representatives from the state of Nebraska and the city of Omaha participated in the exercise, to inject more realism, and to ensure that the military’s commitment to support civil authorities is fulfilled.

“We, as Title 10 (federal military) forces, don’t do anything unless we’re requested,” Kirmse said. “We are continuing to build relationships early with our state and interagency partners.”

The Vibrant Response 11.1 command post exercise is preparation for the task force’s upcoming, much larger field training exercise slated to run in March 2011 at Camp Atterbury, and the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind.



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Thomas Coney, JTF-CS PAO

Personnel from Joint Task Force — Civil Support, based out of Fort Monroe, Va., conduct a shift-change brief as part of 24-hour command and control operations Aug. 16 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Region V DCE shines during CERTEX

By Don Manuszewski
U.S. Army North PAO

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — It was a Tuesday morning, much like any other, when all of a sudden – BAM – a 6.4-magnitude temblor strikes in America's heartland, changing lives forever.

Such was the scenario Jan. 26-30 in Springfield, Ill., as the Defense Coordinating Element from Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region V was stretched to its limit during their Certification Exercise.

"We started the exercise with a new team – and we ended it knowing we are capable of deploying and successfully responding to a complex emergency with our federal partners," said Col. Chris Fulton, U.S. Army North's defense coordinating officer with Region V, who has been on staff less than six months.

U. S. Northern Command, Army North's higher headquarters, requires each of the 10 DCOs to conduct a CERTEX within three months of assuming duties. The CERTEX program is spear-headed by U. S. Army North personnel, who design the exercise and evaluate the participants.

"New" only begins to describe what the colonel and his team faced as the exercise began. Not only was he "new" to his position, the deputy DCO and operations officer were also going through their first bite at the Defense Support of Civil Authorities apple.

"I've been through quite a few of these exercises with other regions, and this team did well," said Carol Rein, an ARNORTH financial management analyst, who was



Photo by Don Manuszewski, U.S. Army North PAO
U.S. Army North personnel work with Soldiers from Army North's Region V Defense Coordinating Element during the DCE's certification exercise Jan. 26-30 in Springfield, Ill.

one of the eight ARNORTH augmentees assisting the region for the exercise.

"It started a bit shaky," she said, "but you could see them really working toward a common goal and getting there as the week went on. They should be very proud of what they accomplished this week."

The DCE team was purposely stretched to its limit as the scenario played out. Calls of "Sergeant Dean!" highlighted the first day as each of the 47 people assigned to the DCE for the exercise looked to Sgt. 1st Class Lynn Dean, the DCE communications noncommissioned officer, to get their computers up and running.

Dean set the tone early and took on the challenge. Within hours of their arrival, each member of the team was operational. The entire team met any and all challenges throughout the week.

After the initial shock, the DCE, with the various Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers assisting, began its two-fold task of initial DSCA response – processing Action

ferent cells, ensuring each duty was covered by members of his team. Once established, the cells overcame the challenges presented, established processes in some cases and refined them throughout the week.

"This was definitely a challenge," said Fulton. "By the time I left every day, my head was pounding. I don't think I've learned this much, this fast, in a long time."

Each of ARNORTH's 10 DCEs are required to be certified every 18 months or whenever a new DCO is assigned.

As the Joint Force Land Component Command and Army Service Component Command to USNORTH-COM, ARNORTH is responsible for land-based homeland defense, civil support and theater security cooperation with Mexico and Canada.

Request Forms and assuming command and control of the troops entering the area of operations.

Fulton, being "dual-hatted" as the DCO and joint force commander for the first time, set up the team into dif-



Photo by Don Manuszewski, U.S. Army North PAO
One of Region V emergency response vehicles sits outside of the Region V headquarters providing internet and telephone capabilities during Region V Defense Coordinating Element's certification exercise Jan. 26-30 in Springfield, Ill.

JTF-N provides support to law enforcement agencies

**Story By Armando Carrasco,
JTF-N PAO**

FORT BLISS, Texas — Securing the nation and safeguarding citizens are the top priorities for federal law enforcement agencies. Supporting federal homeland security efforts is the mission of Joint Task Force – North.

JTF-N, based at Fort Bliss, Texas, is the Department of Defense organization tasked to support federal law enforcement agencies in identifying and interdicting suspected narcotics-related traffickers and other transnational threats.

While JTF-N's mission authorities are based on counterdrug/counter-narcotrafficking federal laws, the task force support operations are executed to counter

associated transnational threats. Transnational threats include activities that threaten the national security of the United States, including international terrorism, narcotrafficking, alien smuggling and threats involving weapons of mass destruction.

JTF-N homeland security support missions are executed as part of DoD's military support to civilian law enforcement agencies responsibilities. The homeland security support provided by JTF-N is designed to enhance law enforcement agencies' efforts to anticipate, detect, deter, prevent and defeat transnational threats to the homeland.

As a subordinate element of U.S. Northern Command, JTF-N is under the operational control of U.S. Army North, the joint force land component command.

The task force operates within the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility, which encompasses the entire North American continent, to include the air, land and sea approaches.

Requests for Military Support to Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies.

When domestic law enforcement agencies request DoD operational or other types of support from JTF-N, DoD policy requires that the requests to first be offered to the appropriate state National Guard counterdrug coordinator to determine whether the state NG can provide the support.

To accomplish this requirement, the NG Bureau maintains a liaison team within the JTF-N headquarters. If a determination is made that the NG does not have the requested support capabilities or available assets, the request is considered by JTF-N.

All support requests submitted to JTF-N must comply with U.S. law and DoD policy for domestic employment of Title 10, U.S. Code, federal military forces.

During the first decade of JTF-N's MSCLEA operations, the support provided to law enforcement was relatively personnel intensive, using people on the ground to provide border detection.

Today, JTF-N support has



Courtesy photo by JTF-N PAO

A 94th Engineer Battalion safety noncommissioned officer discusses a Joint Task Force – North border-road mission with a U.S. Border Patrol agent providing security for the military engineers. The Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., engineers constructed approximately one mile of improved roads and several low-water crossings in Laredo, Texas, near the U.S.-Mexico border.

www.arnorth.army.mil



shifted to a greater focus on the application of technologies, including ground sensors, radar, airborne platforms and thermal imaging.

The evolution of the support has resulted in more effective border detection. JTF-N has shifted its intelligence support efforts from the borders outward and deeper into the approaches to the United States. Working more closely with Canadian and Mexican agencies, JTF-N is gaining greater visibility on threats as they enter the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility.

Military Volunteers Perform Support Missions.

As an operational planning headquarters, JTF-N is comprised of 180 active duty and reserve component Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, DoD civilian employees and contracted support personnel.

The joint service command, which has no assigned forces, relies on volunteer Title 10, U.S. Code, active-duty and reserve component units and individual military assets to accomplish its homeland security support mission.

JTF-N solicits volunteer units from each of the four DoD branches. The volunteer units must be equipped with the appropriate military skills and capabilities required to perform the requested operational support missions.

The Title 10 units and personnel executing the JTF-N support

missions operate under the tactical control of the JTF-N commander. In its continued effort to synchronize the JTF-N support missions, the task force routinely coordinates its support operations with other DoD support assets, including the NG.

The volunteer units must comply with legal and policy guidelines, including the Posse Comitatus Act and intelligence oversight policies.

Based on U.S. law, the active duty and reserve component military forces can only be employed to provide support.

They are strictly prohibited from being used in a direct law enforcement role.



Courtesy photo by JTF-N PAO

Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 6th Air Cavalry Regiment unload an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border via a U.S. Air Force C-5 Galaxy aircraft. The Soldiers employed their forward-looking infrared equipped aircraft while conducting aviation reconnaissance operations in support of the U.S. Border Patrol-El Paso Sector.

Once a unit volunteers for a specific mission, JTF-N facilitates mission planning and execution with the unit and the supported agency.

Field grade officers and senior noncommissioned officers are assigned as mission planners to assist the volunteer units in mission preparation and to facilitate coordination with the federal law enforcement agencies.

See JTF-N, Pg.18



Courtesy photo by JTF-N PAO

Soldiers from Joint Task Force – North's intelligence directorate, geospatial intelligence office provide volunteer military units, supported law-enforcement agencies and the JTF-N staff with imagery support, to include multiple scale maps, line drawing and custom geospatial intelligence analyses.



Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-764, based at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., airlifts U.S. Border Patrol-San Diego Sector air vehicles to remote mountainous locations along the U.S.-Mexico border.

from JTF-N, Pg.17

Mission planners ensure that each operation is conducted legally, efficiently and safely. JTF-N also operates a 24-hour joint operations coordination center to resolve and coordinate issues that the volunteer military units may encounter.

Under DoD policy, the approved support missions must either provide a training benefit to the unit or make a significant contribution to national security. The JTF-N missions provide volunteer units with real-world training opportunities that directly increase their combat effectiveness. While supporting law enforcement agencies, volunteer units typically train in 90 percent of wartime mission tasks. Many of the volunteer active duty and reserve units have used JTF-N missions as train-up opportunities before deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan. To prepare for future deployments, some units returning from Iraq

and Afghanistan volunteer for additional JTF-N missions.

Units executing JTF-N missions along the southwest border areas also gain the added benefit of conducting concurrent unit training at some of the best training ranges in the world, including the Fort Bliss training ranges, Arizona's Goldwater Range and the Yuma Proving Ground.

JTF-N missions truly yield win-win situations: the volunteer units gain great training opportunities and the nation's law enforcement agencies get much needed support.

While the task force can respond to short-notice support requests, most mission planning takes several weeks or many months, depending on each mission's requirements.

Actual mission duration can vary from a couple of weeks to several months.



Courtesy photo by JTF-N PAO

mobile unit agents and their all-terrain

Courtesy photo by JTF-N
PAO

A U.S. Border Patrol-San Diego Sector agent maintains security while Marines from the 4th Ground Sensor Platoon, Intelligence Support Battalion, install ground sensors in a remote area along the U.S.-Mexico border.



September 2010

CATEGORIES OF MILITARY SUPPORT

JTF North support to federal law enforcement agencies is categorized in the following six support categories and listed types of support:

- **Operational Support:** Aviation transportation / insertion / extraction, aviation daytime / nighttime reconnaissance operations, air and maritime surveillance radar, unmanned aircraft systems, ground surveillance radar, listening post / observation post, ground sensor operations, ground transportation.
- **Intelligence Support:** Collaborative threat assessment, geospatial intelligence support, modified threat vulnerability assessment, threat link analysis products.
- **Engineering support:** (Only within the Southwest Border): Personnel barriers, vehicle barriers, lights, roads, bridges.
- **General Support:** Mobile training team instruction (basic marksmanship, trauma management, emergency response, counterdrug field tactical police operations, counterdrug marksman / observer training, counterdrug special reaction team training, integrated mission planning, intelligence and link analysis, interview techniques, multi-subject tactical instruction, threat mitigation training, other training as requested), tunnel detection, transportation, sustainment.
- **Interagency Synchronization:** Support interagency planning process, facilitate interagency and binational information sharing, leverage point of integration operations (multi-agency, multi-assets operations).
- **Technology Integration:** DoD science and technology investment, ground / air / maritime sensor integration, information efficiency and networks, biometrics, tunnel detection.

ARNORTH prepares for nuclear disaster aftermath during FTX

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres,
Army North PAO

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — Almost twenty-four hours after a notional nuclear blast exploded in Indianapolis, planes began arriving in the early morning hours to transport critical assets needed to support response and recovery efforts.

At the center of the activity, U.S. Army North's Joint Task Force – 51 dug in its heels and worked to finalize the critical communication systems and procedures to help support the efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local and state agencies.

Intercom speakers filled the air with emergency signal messages, requesting that residents stay inside and wait for assistance.

Such was the scene during the Vibrant Response 10.2 field training exercise, at Camp Atterbury, the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center and other surrounding areas in Indiana.

"It's important for the purposes of this exercise to maximize reality throughout," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston. "The fast pace and the stress and chaos introduced during the exercise help units test their products and processes, and this is where units start to see if their systems are actually functioning – everything from their sleep plans to the battle rhythm."

During a catastrophic event such as this, time is of essence.

"Initially, the first 48 hours are critical due to the fact of the amount of personnel and equipment coming to one location," said Maj. Maria Tutt, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive

officer, Army North. "Ensuring that our subordinate units, other Armed Forces and joint enablers come together and are accounted for, that's the most important first step in the overall mission."

For the exercise, as well as in a real-world application, setting up the command's contingency command post is critical to the success of providing assistance to local authorities. The support includes help in the decontamination process and providing support and aid to the local populace.

"This event is being put on by members of all services, components, DoD civilians and contractors. I'm impressed by the teamwork and seamlessness of all the players here," said Swan. "This is a model for how we have to operate in a real-world response. The public doesn't care what uniform we're wearing. They expect performance



Members of U.S. Army North's Joint Task Force – 51 prepare the operations cell for action July 12 during the Vibrant Response 10.2 field training exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

and results."

U.S. Army North's mission would be to provide immediate response and necessary assistance to support local, state and federal agencies.

"It's imperative we get coordination done with local law enforcement as soon as possible," said Staff Sgt. John Jenkins, provost marshal's office, ARNORTH. "We continuously look at the force protection aspect for the Joint Operation Area and build a threat picture for Department of Defense forces."

With the support from the various DoD components during the Vibrant Response exercise, joint cooperation is paramount in establishing a working relationship and understanding each other's capabilities before an actual real-world catastrophe happens.

"We need to capture lessons learned on how the exercise is run.

“The whole CBRNE response enterprise is changing at the local, state and federal level. We need to capture the good tactics, techniques and procedures to train the forces that will be coming on over

the next few years,” said Swan. “We train for missions we hope we never have to execute, but we have to get it right the first time. The American public expects it — and deserves it.”



July 2010

ABOVE: Sgt. 1st Class Yvonne Desfosses, communications NCO, U.S. Army North, begins pulling out power supply cables July 12 to help set up an operations cell at Joint Task Force – 51 during the Vibrant Response 10.2 field training exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

LEFT: A simulated Indianapolis town lies in shambles after a notional nuclear explosion detonated in the city at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center near Butlerville, Ind.

Safety is vital during Columbus Day weekend



By Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, Commanding General,
U.S. Army North and Fort Sam Houston

I want to extend my best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Columbus Day holiday weekend. Many of us will have an extended weekend with Friday designated as a training holiday. This coincides with our tradition of recognizing Columbus Day on the second Monday of October.

The reason for the celebration has always been to honor the great explorer for something he did on a different day altogether.

October 12th marks the 518th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World. Many centuries later, it is hard to imagine what he and his crew were thinking and feeling when their eyes first caught a glimpse of the tropical shores of the Bahamas. Their discovery of "America" — as we know it today — was a triumph no less spectacular than when man first landed on the moon.

Columbus exhibited the same strength and courage that I see in the people who serve our Nation today. He led from the front in every aspect of his mission to ensure team success — exactly the same expectation we have for leaders today.

Holidays can often mean the potential for increased risks. Those risks can be mitigated by proactive and caring leaders — leading from the front. I expect and know that leaders across the Fort Sam Houston and Joint Base San Antonio community are engaged and know when their troops are likely to be in peril that they recognize risk factors and are willing to always provide help, assistance and care for their subordinates.

Now, there is a lot to do here in beautiful south Texas, and everyone should take advantage of all that this unique region has to offer. But, please do not throw caution to the wind and every adventure should be undertaken with a measure of care just like those voyagers of the past.

As our Army and military take time this holiday weekend, do the required safety checks and briefings before heading out. Safeguard our most valuable resource — our people. Look out for each other and do not hesitate to get involved when you see a fellow Soldier, Service Member, Family Member, or friend at risk. We want everyone back as soon as duty requires — we need you!

Again, enjoy this holiday! Strength of the Nation!

Origins of Columbus Day

A U.S. national holiday since 1937, Columbus Day commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the New World on Oct. 12, 1492. The Italian-born explorer had set sail two months earlier, backed by the Spanish monarchs King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. He intended to chart a western sea route to China, India and the fabled gold and spice islands of Asia; instead, he landed in the Bahamas, becoming the first European to explore the Americas since the Vikings set up colonies in Greenland and Newfoundland during the 10th century.

Later that month, Columbus sighted Cuba and believed it was mainland China; in December the expedition found Hispaniola, which he thought might be Japan. There, he established Spain's first colony in the Americas with 39 of his men. In March 1493, the explorer returned to Spain in triumph, bearing gold, spices and "Indian" captives. He crossed the Atlantic several more times before his death in 1506; by his third journey, he realized that he hadn't reached Asia but instead had stumbled upon a continent previously unknown to Europeans.

Columbus Day in the United States

The first Columbus Day celebration took place in 1792, when New York's Columbian Order—better known as Tammany Hall—held an event to commemorate the historic landing's 300th anniversary. Taking pride in Columbus' birthplace and faith, Italian and Catholic communities in various parts of the country began organizing annual religious ceremonies and parades in his honor. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation encouraging Americans to mark the 400th anniversary of Columbus' voyage with patriotic festivities, writing, "On that day let the people, so far as possible, cease from toil and devote themselves to such exercises as may best express honor to the discoverer and their appreciation of the great achievements of the four completed centuries of American life."

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed Columbus Day a national holiday, largely as a result of intense lobbying by the Knights of Columbus, an influential Catholic fraternal benefits organization. Originally observed every October 12, it was fixed to the second Monday in October in 1971.

(information courtesy of www.history.com)

Think – Before you tell it to your IG

**By Sgt. Maj. Daniel Cuevas,
IG Sergeant Major,
U.S. Army North**

Greetings to all and a thank you for all you do in making our jobs with Army North a pleasant one. The month of October, for me, will have marked one year since I have been assigned to ARNORTH as the inspector general sergeant major. I have to mention that in the one year so far, I have learned a great deal about how our organization contributes to the nation's defense and security. I am proud to be a part of ARNORTH in the beautiful San Antonio area and Joint Base San Antonio community.

As a member of the Fort Sam Houston team, I believe it is important to address a common misconception about the IG. Many think of the IG as the Army's complaint department; we are not a complaint department. Today's Army IG – like the Army IG of the past – is an extension of the commander's eyes, ears, voice and conscience. For nearly 231 years, IGs have served their commanders, their commands, and the Soldiers, civilians, and Family members that comprise that command by teaching and training, inspecting, assisting, investigating and, as required, sometimes auditing. Today, these four core functions define our Army IG system (AR 20-1 and IG Reference Guide).

As we look to the future and evolve as a Joint Base, the IG community is preparing itself for the impending growth and challenges this evolution may present. We suggest, before you tell it to your Inspector General, to think about the following; be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve. For example, are the cooks turning out lousy chow or was it just one bad meal. Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem. Many problems must be addressed to the chain of command for resolution anyway.

If IG assistance is needed, contact your local



IG first. IG's at higher commands will normally refer the case to the local IG for action. Be honest and don't provide misleading information. IGs will discover the truth quickly in most cases, and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information. Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers. If a policy is flawed, you can submit proposed change on a DA Form 2028.

Keep in mind that IGs can only recommend, not order a resolution. Only Commanders can order; the role of the IG is to advise the Commander. Remember, IGs can only resolve a case on the basis of fact. Your claim that a supervisor has violated the rules doesn't make it fact. A claim must be supported with evidence. Don't expect instant action on your request; be patient. Investigations take time, and IGs tend to have heavy workloads. Finally, be prepared to take "No" for an answer. In any case, "Yes or No," the IG will explain why.

We look forward to seeing everyone and, in many cases, meeting all the team members for the first time as we circulate throughout the organization, regions and installations. We are the best trained Army in the world – with a global reputation for our commitment to standards of excellence. Let's continue living by the standards that have made us great.

"Strength of the Nation"



Army North liaisons serve in unique, complex duty



Col. Barrett Holmes (left), defense coordinating officer, Region IV, U.S. Army North, gives guidance to members of his defense coordinating element June 19 in Anderson, S.C., during Palmetto Shield, a terrorism exercise conducted June 16-20 in upstate South Carolina. The DCE, including its state emergency preparedness liaison officers, supported the state of South Carolina in its statewide, full-scale emergency drills, along with more than 100 local, county, state and federal agencies.



Col. Barrett Holmes (center), defense coordinating officer, Region IV, U.S. Army North, is briefed by members of his defense coordinating element June 19 in Anderson, S.C., during Palmetto Shield, a terrorism exercise conducted June 16-20 in upstate South Carolina.

Story and photos by
By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
 U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — For the U.S. Army North Soldiers and officers who serve as state emergency preparedness liaison officers, their work is complex and far removed from typical military life.

The SEPLOs, or state EPLOs, as they're known, are Reserve officers who serve in civilian communities in the states they're assigned to and report to the regional EPLOs and regional defense coordinating officers. They coordinate with local, county and state authorities as well as Reserve and National Guard units.

"It's not like being in traditional Reserve unit," said Col. Randy Hall, South Carolina SEPLO, Army North. "You've got to go out and find a unit to do an Army Physical Fitness Test with, or for qualifications and ranges, even to get flu shots and meet other requirements, but we've got a good support network."

Hall and Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Flanigan, his operations noncommissioned officer, work out of the National Guard Joint Operations Center, which is co-located with the S.C. Emergency Operations Center in Columbia, S.C.

Having liaisons in the states enables the military to respond to events much more quickly, which is crucial when responding to natural disasters and other serious incidents.

"An EPLO can be on the scene very quickly and has extensive knowledge on what assets and resources are available in a state," Hall said.

Although Army and federal agencies cannot respond to emergencies until specifically requested by the state, the goal is to be able to predict where the resources will be needed if called upon and to preposition the federal assets and resources if possible to provide a more rapid response.

Hall said the work is gratifying and the experience he garners is also beneficial in his civilian employment as director of campus safety at Wofford College.

"It ties directly with my civilian job," Hall said. "In the police department, we use some of the same systems. I'm very interested in emergency man-

agement, and I'm able to take what I learn as an EPLO back to my civilian job."

Flanigan, who deployed in January to Sanford, Fla., to support operations in Haiti, said the work is meaningful.

"We were in charge of a 'flight-following' cell tracking passengers, arrival and departure times and monitoring flights," Flanigan said. "It was a good learning experience, and it was gratifying." He said more than 200 Haitian orphans were flown to the United States while he was working in the cell.

The work is different from traditional military operations because the liaison is not in command of a unit or an area but is there to support civil authorities, said Col. Brad Reid, chief regional EPLO, Region IV, Army North.

"You have to get used to the idea that the Army is not in the lead role," Reid said.

In the case of a natural disaster, a state will first apply its resources before requesting federal assistance, though federal assistance, including military assistance, will be available very quickly because of pre-positioned assets and resources under several federal disaster contingency plans.

An assignment as an EPLO, usually for three years, is valuable experience, Reid said.

"It's a good developmental experience for any officer to move into this realm and then take back the experience to a traditional unit," said he concluded.

REGION 4



June 2010

Relief Effort

ARNORTH supports FEMA assistance to Haiti effort

By Sgt. Joshua Ford

U.S. Army North PAO

ATLANTA — A U.S. Army North Defense Coordinating Officer, along with his Defense Coordinating Element in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IV, have been busy since the 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti Jan. 12. FEMA Region IV includes the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Col. Robert Mayr, DCO, Region IV, and the DCE, based in Atlanta, have been working around the clock following flights leaving and arriving from the devastated nation.

Right now, the Region IV DCE, including emergency preparedness liaison officers from all services, are supporting FEMA's efforts to fly food and water to Haiti, said Lt. Col. Perry Seawright, deputy DCO, Region IV DCE.

"We have liaisons watching flights from seven airports within our region," continued Seawright.

Col. Mark Johnson, DCO from FEMA Region VIII, who is normally stationed in Denver, along with eight members of the Region VIII DCE, also deployed to the southeastern U.S. and worked with state and federal agencies while planning for numerous contingencies.

"By sending another DCO to help, we are able to maintain situational awareness and receive requests for support from everyone to the state level, all the way up to the federal and SOUTHCOM level," said Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, ARNORTH commanding general. "What (the DCOs) have done so far just shows the diversity of the capability of the DCO."

In total, 48 ARNORTH members were employed for support to Haiti's disaster response.

ARNORTH's DCOs are located in each of the 10 FEMA regions in the country. The DCOs serve as a military liaison to



Photo and cover photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left), commanding general, U.S. Army North, is briefed by Col. Robert Mayr, defense coordinating officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IV, during Swan's Jan. 20 visit to the Region IV headquarters in Atlanta. "This just shows the diversity of the capability of the DCO," said Swan, about the change in mission Mayr was asked to do in supporting U.S. Southern Command's operations in Haiti.

local, state and federal organizations and are responsible for processing requirements for military support, forwarding mission assignments to the appropriate military organizations through Department of Defense channels, and assigning military liaisons to activated emergency support functions, such as the support Region IV is providing to U.S. Southern Command.

FEMA and the DCO have very limited involvement in the operation supporting SOUTHCOM, but it is very important involvement nonetheless, said Seawright.

Staff Sgt. Luther Grayer, a supply sergeant for the DCE, said he has learned a lot

as his role switched from supply to operations practically overnight as a result of the earthquake that struck Haiti.

"I didn't ever think I could be doing this in the Army, and it's great," said Grayer. "It feels good knowing the very little that I am doing is helping a bigger operation provide support to the Haitians."

Swan said it is important to be aware that the mission in Haiti could go in any direction and, as such, it is vital the DCOs assigned to the mission keep an eye on it.

"As the operation in Haiti turns from an emergency relief effort to a long-term

response effort, if FEMA and other agencies that may be involved need support from U.S. Northern Command, the DCOs will be there to gauge that support,"

"It feels good knowing the very little that I am doing is helping a bigger operation provide support to the Haitians."

Staff Sgt. Luther Grayer
Supply Sergeant, Region IV DCE, U.S. Army North

ARNORTH CG visits 167th TSC

**Story and photo by
Sgt. Joshua Ford,
U.S. Army North PAO**

FORT MCCLELLAN, Ala. — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, commanding general, U.S. Army North, met with Maj. Gen. A.C. Blalock, adjutant general, Alabama National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Joe Harkey, commanding general, 167th Theater Sustainment Command, Jan. 20 to discuss the future evolution of the 167th and the vital resources it provides to ARNORTH.

“At the end of the day, it is all about logistics, distribution and just getting it out there,” said Swan, about the importance of the capabilities the 167th TSC can provide to the American people in the event of a disaster.

The 167th TSC is a National Guard unit with more than 400 personnel assigned. Its headquarters is at Fort McClellan, Ala. The unit’s primary mission is to support Army North, the Joint Force Land Component Command and the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Northern Command, which is tasked to conduct Homeland Defense, Civil Support operations in order to protect the American people.

“The 167th is a unique command,” said Harkey. “The Alabama governor and adjutant general fenced off the command from any state missions so the 167th could primarily focus on supporting NORTHCOM.”

Focusing on support to the NORTHCOM and ARNORTH missions is what the command



FORT MCCLELLAN, Ala. — Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left), commanding general, U.S. Army North, shakes hands with Maj. Gen. A.C. Blalock, adjutant general, Alabama National Guard, during his visit Jan. 20 at the 167th Theater Sustainment Command’s headquarters, Fort McClellan, Ala.

has been solely dedicated to for more than three years now. Since taking on the mission as ARNORTH’s theater sustainment command, the 167th responded with logistic support to hurricane relief missions and has been an integral part in many NORTHCOM and ARNORTH-led exercises.

During the meeting, the senior leaders also discussed how the TSC, and other units assuming similar missions, need to become more versatile in their capabilities.

“This is the most complex (operational environment) in the world,” said Swan, adding that Soldiers operating in the United States during a disaster must be prepared to provide great support to the American people during their time of need.

Swan, Blalock and Harkey

also discussed how relationships between Alabama’s government, the Alabama National Guard, 167th TSC and ARNORTH have evolved since the 167th TSC assumed its vital mission.

“We have come a long way since we started,” said Harkey.

The meeting marked Swan’s first opportunity to visit with the 167th since he took command of ARNORTH Dec. 15.

“We wanted to familiarize (Lt. Gen. Swan) with our capabilities and the structure we bring to the mission,” said Harkey.

At the conclusion of the visit, Harkey accompanied Swan on a tour of 167th’s new headquarters building. The building, which cost more than \$13 million, was completed in June and opened in December.

55th CST helps decontaminate Best Buy corporate HQ during training exercise

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres,
Army North PAO

Minneapolis — Throughout the United States, television news agencies broadcast images to the world on a daily basis that an attack has happened against people, places and even corporations. Usually the question isn't if an attack will happen but when.

These man-made attacks can be just as devastating as natural disasters. In fact, it is against such scenarios that the U.S. Army North, and its federal, state, city and local partners, train on a daily basis to overcome.

Such was the case Aug. 25 when members of Army

North's Civil Support Training Activity, out of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, deployed to Minneapolis during a pre-evaluation training exercise in support of the 55th Civil Support Team, which was called upon by the local Richfield County police and fire department to help decontaminate a crime scene.

The exercise was based on a scenario in which a couple of local residents entered the Best Buy Corporate Headquarters building in Richfield, Minn., and wounded numerous employees. To further complicate matters, the attackers used Anthrax, a serious illness caused by a spore-forming bacterium, to contaminate employees associated with the company.

The 55th CST is a Minnesota Army National Guard

August 2010



unit based out of Fort Snelling, Minn. The Army North CSTA members served as observer controller/trainers during the event and provided assistance and feedback throughout.

“This scenario helps prepare both local and military responders to handle any type of situation,” said Javier Rodriguez-Ramos, observer controller, CSTA, Army North. “They have to know how to enter into a building with the information they get from the survivors, and local police must ensure the safety of the populous and know when to call on the 55th CST for support.”

The main emphasis during the exercise was the coordination and communication between local law enforcement and the CST. The Army North CSTA’s mission was to ensure that proper coordination and procedures were being followed and that any potential conflicts that arose during the exercise were addressed. Overseeing the communication from start to finish helped to ensure that both agencies were fully aware of their duties, responsibilities and capabilities.

“Our very first priority in this situation is getting the information out to our local responders, and we have to know what situation we’re in, what we can do,” said Lt. Jay Henthorne, Richfield Police Department. “We have a very good relationship with the 55th CST. We use training like this to ensure that we know all the people involved and develop our relationship now instead of when an event actually occurs.”

The Richfield special weapons and tactics team participated in the exercise as well as a security team working in the Best Buy Corporate Headquarters and some Best Buy employees. The corporation authorized the training at their corporate headquarters building in an effort to assist its local responders and, at the same time, evaluate its own security and emergency management team.

“It’s very important we know how to handle these types of situations,” said Ed Johnson, emergency management security team member, Best Buy. “We understand the building security features and are able to help out the local law enforcement to determine any type of threats and provide critical information that they would need to help us.”

With everyone involved, Best Buy Corporate

employees were able to observe as the local law enforcement and the SWAT team helped those initially affected by the attack and how the law enforcement professionals figured out what happened during the start of the chaos. Once the law enforcement officials discovered that it was not only an attack with gun, but with a chemical agents as well, they called upon the 55th CST to support.

“The CSTA team does these types of mission throughout the United States,” said Bill Havlic, director of Civil Support Readiness Group — West, CSTA, Army North. “There are training events like this every month. The CSTA team travels to numerous states to assess the training and to strengthen the confidence of the local CSTs and the local authorities.”



Jeffery Paulson (right), observer controller, Civil Support Training Activity, U.S. Army North, watches as Richfield law enforcement and the fire department responders communicate critical information gathered by the survivors of a notional biological attack during a pre-evaluation training exercise here Aug. 25.



Manuel Gutierrez, (right) controller, CSTA, U.S. Army North, watches members of the Richfield special weapons and tactical unit clear out notional hostiles, who unleashed a biological weapon during a simulated attack at the Best Buy Corporate Headquarters building here Aug. 25.

Left: Javier Rodriguez-Ramos, observer controller, CSTA, Army North, assists a member of the 55th Civil Support Team as he determines the amount of chemical exposure from a briefcase containing simulated anthrax Aug. 25.

263rd ADA trains for Nation



February 2010



al Capitol Region mission

By U.S. Army North PAO

FORT BLISS, Texas — As U.S. Army North's commanding general watched on, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery Brigade, a South Carolina National Guard unit based out of Anderson, S.C., showcased their formidability during a live-fire exercise Feb. 26 at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, ARNORTH's commanding general, visited the air defense Soldiers and observed the Soldiers as they shot down remotely piloted aerial targets with Stinger missiles.

The live fire was the culminating event for the Soldiers, who deployed Feb. 8-27 to Fort Bliss to prepare for their upcoming mission in providing air defense capabilities for the National Capitol Region.

"The Soldiers are prepared to step into this arena, and we have all the tools to accomplish the mission," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jamie Wilbanks, the senior enlisted leader for 2nd Bn.

"We are motivated," declared Wilbanks. "We understand the mission set and understand that this is one of the most important missions in the world."

The Soldiers are scheduled to re-



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left center), U.S. Army North commanding general, is briefed by Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, during an exercise at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Feb. 26. The exercise was designed to prepare 2-263rd ADA Bde. for their upcoming mission to provide air cover for the National Capitol Region.

place the Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, a Florida National Guard unit, in conducting the vital mission of monitoring and defending the region's airspace.

During their yearlong deployment, which begins in March, the unit will be based out of Bolling Air Force Base, Washington. "I'm excited to go – It's a cool thing to do," said Pfc. Trevor Gaston, an Avenger crewmember with 2nd Bn. "Taking all our equipment up there for a year and having this real-

world mission is an honor."

The Soldiers began preparing for the deployment more than 18 months ago, said Wilbanks, adding that they participated in numerous national-level exercises and culminating training events.

"The training has been great. The Soldiers have done an excellent job and are prepared for this mission," concluded Lt. Col. Bill Brown, 2nd Bn.'s commander.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford, U.S. Army North PAO

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III, U.S. Army North's commanding general, meets with the Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery Brigade, a South Carolina National Guard unit, during a live-fire training exercise Feb. 26 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The live fire was the culminating event for the Soldiers, who deployed Feb. 8-27 to Fort Bliss to prepare for their upcoming mission in providing air defense capabilities for the National Capitol Region.



ARMY NORTH NCOs graduate th

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres-Cortes
U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — The Army is continuing to enhance its war fighters with something more powerful than new artillery weapon systems, night vision scopes and expensive gadgets.

This fairly new program, the Army's "Master Resiliency Training Course," is part of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness.

It is designed to enhance a Soldier's mettle, mind and mental thinking and focuses on the five dimensions of strength: emotional, social, spiritual, Family and physical.

Three Soldiers from U.S. Army

North and a Civilian from U.S. Army Medical Command, along with 150 other personnel within Army commands, graduated from a 10-day course March 18.

The graduates were taught, in cooperation with staff from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, the necessities to help train Soldiers, Family members and Civilians on ways to become more "Resilient" in the Army, lives and career.

The "Suck it up and drive on" mentality got some Soldiers to overcome their adversities, but that doesn't work for every situation or every Soldier.

"An accident, divorce or death is what it is," said Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, Comprehensive Soldier Fitness director. "But it is how we come out of that event that can determine how we make ourselves a better person."

Through an initiative from Gen. George Casey, Army Chief of Staff, the "Battlemind" training program was revamped last year to become the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program.

The program is designed to help build Soldiers' core strengths of physical fitness, emotional awareness, social communications, Family values and spiritual beliefs.

"Wars are no longer going to be won or lost by whoever has the fastest, biggest airplane," said Cornum. "They are going to be won by having the smartest, brightest people making the hardest, most difficult decisions in the most dangerous situations."

The Army's program, already about a year old, concentrates on the knowledge and skills necessary to overcome the extreme adversities Soldiers face, both in and out of the war zone.

Soldiers endure a rigorous physical fitness schedule in order to cope with harsh environments of Iraq and

Afghanistan; but before this training, there was no program to teach Soldiers how to deal with stress, work, physical training, family, personal problems and multiple deployments.

Most importantly, it benefits Soldiers by teaching them they can be in control of their actions and thoughts during events that are extremely difficult to handle, said Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Hernandez, information technology specialist, Defense Coordinating Element, Region III (Philadelphia, Pa.), U.S. Army North.

"Becoming aware of

our thoughts on events that happen in our life can provide different ways of reacting, whether to not overreact or not react at all," said Hernandez.

"Therefore, old situations could have been handled better with a more communication and understanding, thus eliminating the possibility of escalation and creating a positive outcome of a potentially hazardous discussion."

The Soldiers and Civilians who attended the training are all seasoned veterans of their crafts and have previous deployment experiences. Those traits prove invaluable to the program that continued to teach even the most experienced Soldiers something new about themselves.

"Simply put, I learned how to use my strong character strengths to motivate and influence Soldiers," said Staff Sgt.

STRONG MINDS



Staff Sgt. Richard Garcia, listens intently as an instructor discusses how character strengths makes a huge difference in personal and professional relationships during the Master Resiliency Training Course in Philadelphia, Pa., March 18. Garcia serves as an intelligence analyst.

the Master Resiliency Training Course

Richard Garcia, Intelligence Analyst, ARNORTH. "At the same, time I realized how to identify my weaknesses, which will help me make better decisions when guiding Soldiers."

Garcia said he could see how what he learned at the course could help others at Army North. Taking the CSF motto "Strong Minds, Strong Bodies," Garcia will need additional help and resources in order to ensure this program is implemented and taught in all the units.

The Army North command showed its resolve in

this matter by sending a total of five Soldiers to the course to enhance the units' readiness to train these newly developed skills throughout the command.

"I think this will be really beneficial to use for training at the Contingency Command Posts,

since they are some negative effects of natural disasters," said Garcia. "If you're not prepared to handle that kind of situation, it may have a downward spiral effect on a Soldier or Civilian."

Ultimately, the benefit of the training is that Soldiers and Civilians will build an internal strength enabling them to focus and react to situations more clearly with positive results.

The MRT program will teach Soldiers and Civilians how to strengthen themselves which in turn will strengthen relationships with Family, friends and co-workers leading to a

better working environment and becoming a more productive work force, said MRT Dr. Karen Reivich, University of Pennsylvania, co-director of the Penn Resiliency Project and a research associate in the Positive Psychology Center.

This training will soon be incorporated at every level in the Military Schools and Training curriculums, said Cornum.

Soldiers at every level will ultimately learn how to adapt to difficult situations using tools and knowledge learned from the Resiliency Trainers, which will help them both through deployments and back home.

Resiliency training will also be added to pre- and post-deployment briefs. So those Soldiers who weren't able to get to the class will be able to receive a part of the training. Moreover, the leaders will in turn be able to instill the training in their Soldiers just as they did for the Warrior Ethos and Army Values.

Personnel who attended made a deep discovery about their own self-awareness.

Before the course, a "character strengths" test is applied to help the student gain insight on what makes him or her so unique and so valuable to the Army team.

Students take their most valued rated skill and apply it to everyday tasks to help them overcome adversities and focus on parts of situations that are controllable.

"I learned that the Army is moving in the right direction by providing their Warriors with the tools and skills needed to become more self-aware and self-regulating," said Val Wilson, battle mind training specialist, Army Medical Department Center and School, Soldier and Family Support Branch.

"I learned that although I possessed many of the skills, I really need to start



Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Hernandez points out one of his top character strengths on the board during the Army's Master Resiliency Training Course in Philadelphia, Pa., March 18. Hernandez serves as an information technology specialist, with U.S. Army North's Defense Coordinating Element Region III in Philadelphia, Pa.

making these skills a part of my daily life.

"It will not only make you a better person but make you a better communicator, a better person and someone that others would seek out for advice and counsel.

Wilson has already started incorporating those skills in his everyday life and daily training he conducts with Soldiers attending the school at his command.

The skills will allow individuals to learn how to control their thoughts and emotions, which in turn will help them better manage their personal and professional relationships, said Wilson.

Once Warriors have the skills and tools to cope with the mental and emotional stressors that they face daily, they will eventually have better balance in their lives.

"The MRT training has been, by far, the best training experience I've ever had," said Garcia.

"It is a solution to one the biggest puzzles in life – understanding who you really are."

STRONG BODIES

News**Army observes
National Depression
Awareness Month***Army Medicine*

SAN ANTONIO — The Army marks National Depression Awareness Month in October, with a theme of “Depression is Treatable — Get Screened — Seek Care.”

Clinical depression is a serious medical condition that, if left untreated, may lead to other complicated medical conditions, according to medical experts. Seeking treatment for a medical condition is not a sign of weakness, they said, adding that it may prevent a good Soldier from becoming a casualty.

The National Institute of Mental Health has reported that major depressive disorder affects some 14.8 million people in the United States.

Signs and symptoms of depression may include sadness, loss of interest in things you once enjoyed, feelings of guilt or worthlessness, restlessness, withdrawing from friends and family or trouble concentrating or making decisions.

Depression also may produce body aches and pains, irritability, anxiety, over eating or loss of appetite or thoughts of suicide or death.

Unfortunately, many people believe their symptoms are a normal part of life. Two-thirds of people who suffer from depression fail to seek the care needed.

The truth is, more than 80 percent of clinical depression cases can be treated effectively with medication, psychotherapy or both.

Often, the first step to recovery is a depression screening.

Anonymous depression screen-

ings are available through the Department of Defense (<http://www.militarymentalhealth.org/Welcome.aspx> or 877-877-3647), Department of Veterans Affairs (<http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/depression.asp>) and civilian organizations (for example, <http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/programs/military/>).

The screening sites also provide information about how to get treatment.

**Mullen: Terror groups
seeking global reach**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Terror groups in the Middle East are seeking to expand their influence and operations beyond their borders to the rest of the world, the top U.S. military officer said yesterday.

“The reason we’re focused on Afghanistan and Pakistan is that living in that border area are terrorists from various organizations ... and it’s become the epicenter of terrorism in the world,” said Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a speech at Texas A&M University.

“Several of those organizations, in addition to al-Qaida, now have global aspirations and are moving to a point of having global operational capacity,” he added, “and they threaten us very specifically, the United States, Western interests, our European friends.”

Mullen specifically mentioned al-Qaida, as well as the Taliban entities that focus on Pakistan and Afghanistan, and Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is a Pakistan-based terror organization.

Keeping the pressure on the terrorist organizations now is critical, the admiral said, noting that such measures include improving gov-

ernance, education and economics in countries whose young people are becoming part of such organizations.

“I don’t think we can kill our way through this,” Mullen said. “I think those conditions have to change and that’s a long-term challenge.

That’s not going to happen overnight. But together with other countries — responsible global powers — we can make significant progress over time. That’s the long-term answer.”

Success in the Middle East is based on several components, one of which is training the Afghan national security forces to provide for their own security, he said.

“There are some significant challenges with that,” Mullen said. “They’re missing mid-grade officers leaders, so we’re working hard to fill those gaps as rapidly as we can.

Other factors include reducing government corruption and helping bolster the Afghan economy, he added.

“A huge part of this strategy and mission deals with a significant effort to reduce high-level, predatory corruption,” Mullen said.

“That is tied to governance, so the government of this country, whether it’s the national government or the local government, can actually provide for the needs of the people.

That’s what the Afghan people want.”

Mullen wouldn’t say when the United States and its allies would achieve success in Afghanistan.

“There is a strong desire to say: ‘Here’s a timeline, here’s when it ends and (to) know for sure,’” he said.

“I’ve been living in this world for too long; we don’t predict timelines very well.”

Deadline for retroactive stop loss special pay extended

Department of Defense

WASHINGTON — The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay has been extended to Dec. 3, 2010, allowing personnel more time to apply for the benefits they've earned.

To apply, or for more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution signed by President Obama yesterday, providing funding for federal government operations through Dec. 3.

"It's important that all those eligible for this benefit take the opportunity to apply for what they've earned," said Lernes Hebert, acting director, Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management. "We encourage those eligible to apply as soon as possible, to avoid the last minute rush, which can increase processing time."

RSLSP was established to compensate military members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries are required to submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status. The original deadline for claims was Oct. 21, 2010.

When RSLSP began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated

145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts throughout the year. Efforts including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue throughout the period of eligibility.

Speaker to Soldiers: Suicide isn't answer

ARMY.MIL

FORT RILEY, Kan. — Bottom line: suicide isn't the answer.

Tony Jurich, Ph.D., and Kansas State University Marriage and Family Therapy professor who has worked with Fort Riley for 39 years, and Sandra Stith, Ph.D., and K-State Marriage and Family Therapy director, spoke to 1st Infantry Division Soldiers in Morris Hill Chapel Sept. 9 discussing different areas of suicide prevention.

"Some people's lives end with a period. That's it, they're gone. Some end with an exclamation point, when a person did things in life that easily gain the attention of others; some people die with a comma, because they're belief system says to them and others that they have moved on to something else; but a suicide, that person's life ends with a question mark," Jurich has stated in past talks with "Big Red One" Soldiers, later giving advice on how to approach a fellow Soldier who is showing signs of suicidal thoughts, tendencies or comes asking for help.

"The first thing you do is ask directly, 'Are you thinking about suicide?'" Jurich said, explaining that by doing so, a suicidal person's

response will be self-evident in diagnosing the danger level, such as violently denying or repeatedly denying the accusation.

"Then we have a problem," Jurich said.

Next, Soldiers should judge the lethality of a person's chosen form of suicide to figure out how much time they have.

"Do they have a plan? Is it very well thought out? Is there detail? Do they have a ready-made means of killing themselves? Where is it going to be? Who are they going to say goodbye too," Jurich listed as good questions to ask. "People with suicidal (thoughts) ... who are very dangerous and on the edge, they have thought about this stuff," he said.

The most important step in helping a suicidal person is to invite them in, Jurich said.

"If you get a person on the brink of suicide, they are really vulnerable ... do the thing most people don't do, invite them to talk," he said. "You become their conduit; you become their person who then takes them over to mental health, over to the chaplain," he continued, adding that it's most likely OK to ask a superior for time away from their regular duty day to help a fellow Soldier. If not, calling a chaplain to come to you is the next option.

"Get them to somebody who can do the heavy-duty lifting," Jurich said, explaining that after assistance is gained, the connection isn't lost. "When they get back, ask them how it went," he said.

He added if they say it went well, respond by letting them know they always have you to talk to, but if they say it didn't go well, to encourage that there is always someplace else to find help and that you can help them find it.

Special Edition — Year In Review

